

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the original paper copy of the Sequence Listing with the substitute paper copy of the Sequence Listing filed herewith.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 1, as follows:*

The N-terminal Amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:9) of the fusion protein HCV- $\beta$ -galactosidase is shown underneath the DNA sequence. The HCV sequence is depicted in italics. The start of the  $\beta$ -Gal gene (including 6 nucleotides of the Kozak sequence in front of the ATG codon) is underlined.